IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A compound comprising a ~~target cell-specific~~ portion for binding to a specific target cell and a cytotoxic portion, characterised in that the cytotoxic second portion is a constitutively active caspase or has ~~substantially~~ the same apoptosis-inducing activity as said caspase, wherein the cytotoxic portionis conjugated to a portion specific for binding to a cell.

2. (currently amended) A compound comprising a mediator portion capable of recognising a target cell-specific molecule and a cytotoxic second portion, characterised in that the cytotoxic second portion is a constitutively active caspase or has ~~substantially~~ the same apoptosis-inducing activity as said caspase.

3. (currently amended) A compound according to Claim 1 wherein the ~~target cell-specific~~ portion for binding to a specific target cell recognises and selectively binds to a tumour cell antigen.

4. (original) A compound according to Claim 2 wherein the mediator portion recognises a compound according to Claim 1.

5. (original) A compound according to Claim 2 or 4 wherein the target cell-specific molecule recognised by the mediator portion is derivatised.

6. (currently amended) A compound as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the ~~target cell-specific portion~~ for binding to a specific target cell or the mediator portion is an antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof.

7. (currently amended) A compound as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the ~~target-cell-specific~~ portion for binding to a specific target cell is internalised upon contact with the target cell.

8. (currently amended) A compound as claimed in any preceding claim wherein the ~~target-cell-specific~~ portion for binding to a specific target cell or the mediator portion is an HMFG-1 antibody or an antigen binding fragment thereof.

9. (original) A compound according to anyone of claims 6 to 8 wherein the antibody or antigen binding fragment thereof is humanised.

10. (original) A compound according to any preceding claim wherein the cytotoxic portion is at least the catalytically active portion of a constitutively active caspase.

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11. (currently amended) A compound according to any preceding claim wherein the cytotoxic portion is a constitutively active effector caspase or has ~~substantially~~ the same apoptosis-inducing activity as the said caspase.

12. (currently amended) A compound according to any preceding claim wherein the cytotoxic portion is a constitutively active caspase-3, caspase-6 or caspase-7, or has ~~substantially~~ the same apoptosis-inducing activity as the said caspase.

13. (original) A compound according to any preceding claim wherein the cytotoxic portion is of mammalian origin.

14. (original) A compound according to any preceding claim wherein the cytotoxic portion is a constitutively active variant of a naturally occurring caspase, the variant being a constitutively active caspase with a poptosis inducing activity.

15. (original) A compound according to any preceding claim wherein the cytotoxic portion is capable of oligomerisation.

16. (original) A compound according to any preceding claim wherein said compound is a fusion compound.

17. (currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 16, or a ~~target cell specific~~ portion for binding to a specific target cell, mediator portion or cytotoxic portion thereof.

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18. (original) A method of making a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 16, said method comprising expressing one or more nucleic acid molecules according to Claim 17 in a host cell and isolating the compound therefrom.

19. (original) A vector for expressing in a host cell a compound according to any one of Claim 1 to 16 or a portion thereof, said vector comprising one or more nucleic acid molecules according to Claim 17.

20. (original) A host cell transformed with a vector according to Claim 19.

21. (original) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 16 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or excipient.

22. (original) A compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 16 for use in medicine.

23. (original) Use of a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 16 in the preparation of a medicament for treating a disease associated with the dysfunction of a population of cells.

24. (original) The use according to Claim 23 for treating cancer.

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25. (original) A method of treating a patient having target cells to be destroyed, the method comprising administering to a patient a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of Claims 1 to 16.

26. (original) A method according to Claim 25 wherein the patient is human.

27. (original) A method according to Claim 25 or 26 wherein the patient has cancer.